

THE Gateway

University of Nebraska at Omaha

A long,
cold walk.
See page 2

Preying Mantis descends on Omaha, Lincoln

By DAN PRESCHER

At 2:15 p.m. last Sunday, a yellow Nova festooned with pictures from the December issue of Penthouse magazine and "wanted" posters of publisher Bob Guccione pulled into the parking lot of the Playboy Club at 120th and I Sts.

Riding in the "porn-mobile" along with a blow-up teenage sex doll was Nikki Craft, founder of the Preying Mantis Women's Brigade and organizer of the Midwest Rampage Against Penthouse.

While Craft and a helper tied the doll, purportedly advertised as having "three hungry orifices," to a tree, Melissa Farley held up an issue of Penthouse to reporters and cameras.

Marketing of women

"I know some of you won't be able to use these images on T.V.," said Farley, a tall, bespectacled clinical psychologist from Iowa City, Iowa, "although they're sold at B. Dalton's and convenience stores throughout the country. They represent the absolute objectification of women, the marketing of women by the \$8 billion-a-year porn industry that is endangering the lives of women."

Farley and Craft, who also founded the Citizens for Media Responsibility Without Law, had just returned from Lincoln Saturday night after members of their organizations tore up copies of Penthouse in five stores, garnering 11 citations for vandalism, disturbing the peace and obstructing a sidewalk.

Craft said the Rampage, which started in October, had been dedicated to the memory of Jean Fewel, an 8-year-old Chinese girl killed in North Carolina, found raped and hanging from a tree.

"These images (photos in magazines such as Penthouse) make my life dangerous. We're encouraging women to walk into the stores that sell them and rip them up."

—Melissa Farley

One of the Penthouse photos held up by Farley depicted a Japanese woman bound and hanging from a tree.

"These images make my life dangerous," said Farley. "We're encouraging women to walk into the stores that sell them and rip them up."

Will not stop

"We call upon women to break any law that discriminates against them," said Craft, "and to ignore any custom that promotes their second-class citizenship. We will not stop, and we will not be rehabilitated by jail."

When asked about laws against the destruction of private property, Craft said the acts did constitute civil disobedience but did not mean the group advocated censorship.

"When the founding fathers of this country threw tea from British ships in Boston harbor, they weren't opposing capitalism," she said, "and we're not opposing the right of anyone to print what they want. They were protesting lack of proper representation, and that's what we're doing."

Farley explained that 75 individuals had been arrested in the five states visited by the groups so far: Iowa, California, Wisconsin, Illinois and Nebraska.

She said arraignments on the charges resulting from their actions in Lincoln Saturday would be handed down in early March.

"We will plead not guilty," she said.

Craft said the group's next stop would be a B. Dalton book store. The groups had targeted B. Dalton's, Craft said, because the stores were the largest distributors of Penthouse in the United States.

Two days earlier, Craft had explained her movement and the events that led to her in-



Scott Shugart

Let 'er rip ... Melissa Farley, left, and Nikki Craft take Penthouse to task at B. Dalton's bookstore.

volvement in it in a slide presentation at First Unitarian Church, 31st and Harney Sts.

Approximately 50 people attended the presentation, which started with a slide of Craft's sister, who had committed suicide.

Craft said writings found after her death indicated that she slit her wrists and took an overdose of prescribed antidepressant medication because she felt she didn't measure up to society's standards of female beauty and behavior.

Never content

"Not all women slit their wrists," said Craft. "They die inside with Valium, with cleaning house, because they can't live up to these illusions. They are forced to live their whole lives never quite contented with themselves."

Craft was careful to explain that her organizations were not against sex, nudity or freedom of expression. She showed slides of herself and members of her groups being arrested at Cape Cod for going topless in protest of what she called the "hypocrisy" that allowed men to remove their shirts on a hot day but required women to cover their breasts.

Craft went on to show slides from Penthouse magazine portraying Japanese women tied with ropes, hung from trees or cast on rocks with their hands bound.

She showed a series of slides from Hustler magazine that had been titled "Dream Lover," depicting a man in black leather beating a nude woman and, at one point, pushing her head into a toilet.

Another series from Hustler showed a woman being gang-raped on a pool table. Craft pointed out that this series ran several months before a woman was raped on a pool table by several men in a New Bedford, Mass. bar.

While not drawing any parallels between the two, Craft did show a page from Hustler that appeared after the New Bedford incident. It depicted a postcard of a nude woman on a pool table, with the caption, "Greetings from New Bedford."

Craft, who said she herself had been raped at knife-point when she was 15, maintained that men believed the images they saw in publications.

"What this magazine is saying to men is that women enjoy being raped, enjoy being murdered. It is a misrepresentation of women that is used to sell. Women's bodies are used to sell every imaginable type of product."

She specifically pointed out the advertisers in the Penthouse December issue.

"These companies should be boycotted," she said. "Sanyo, Casio, Magnavox, Canon, Panasonic are all using violence against women to sell their products."

Unmolested magazines

"When you see these images of women with knives being jabbed at them and their heads shoved into toilets, ask yourselves why nothing in the world is sacred except ... their precious magazines on newsstands, and why they can advocate the rape of women and be able to stay on news stands completely unmolested, safe under the First Amendment."

"We want pornography taken out from under the bed and put on coffee tables. We want it discussed and rejected as lies and slander."

—Nikki Craft

She explained the name of one of her organizations, Citizens for Media Responsibility Without Law.

"We don't need laws to get this off the shelves of every store we walk into. We don't need the government saying 'get it out.' We want pornography taken out from under the bed and put on coffee tables. We want it discussed and rejected as lies and slander."

"We want women to realize that having violent pornography that represents women being raped and enjoying it is like Jews having Nazi material in their own house."

"People who believe stereotypes and lies about other human beings are bigots, and men who believe lies about women being passive and enjoying being raped are bigots."

"As soon as society calls them the bigots that they are, you won't find (these) magazines being sold in every store. You won't need the government to get it out."

Craft said that many of the arrests resulting from the groups' actions were never brought to trial. She pointed out the case of her topless Cape Cod action.

Indefensible

"When they saw we were going to fight the law in court, they dropped the charges. They know how indefensible their laws are," she said.

Craft and Farley showed many of the same images used in Craft's presentation at the Playboy Club. They declined to tear up the Penthouse there, saying that they'd wait till they got to the book store and use one off its shelves.

After being told to leave the Playboy Club's "private property" by an unidentified man, Craft, Farley and seven to 10 supporters went to the B. Dalton bookstore at 5106 S. 108th St.

At the bookstore, signs with enlargements of the Penthouse photos with captions reading "Brought to you by Canon" and other advertisers in the magazine were handed out to members of the group. While Craft and Farley went inside, the sign-holders stood outside before cameras from local television stations and chanted slogans, including "Violence in the media equals violence in society," and "Pornography is the theory, rape is the practice."

Out of stock

Inside, Craft and Farley asked attendants where they kept their pornography.

"If you mean the Playboys and Penthouses," replied one, "we're all out."

"We were just here two days ago," said Farley, "and you had them then."

"Well, we're out of stock now," the woman replied.

Craft had brought the copy that had been held up at the Playboy Club, and she and Farley stood in front of the rack they said the magazines had been displayed on.

"Somehow an image of a tortured, stripped and mutilated woman is described as sexual entertainment," said Farley, as she and Craft held the magazine between them before the T.V. cameras. "This type of imagery promotes violence against women. This is how we respond to that portrayal."

Craft and Farley then began tearing the Penthouse into small strips, throwing them to the floor.

Craft explained while she was tearing the magazine that B. Dalton's office had conferred with her by phone and said that the company's distribution policy was being reviewed. She said that corporations decide what they will distribute and what they won't and the First Amendment didn't oblige them to sell anything they didn't want to.

She said the company's attitude showed that the tactics of her group were working.

After the magazine was destroyed, one of the men in Craft's group picked up the pieces and asked an attendant where she would like to have them thrown away. The woman offered him a trash can behind the counter.

When asked how she felt about the store she worked for carrying the magazines, the attendant said, "We carry a lot of things I don't personally buy, but no one forces me to buy them."

Craft spent the rest of the time in the store talking to reporters about future actions. She said the group was headed for Illinois and then North Carolina.

Referring to comments from several of the customers in the store that private property should be left alone, Craft said, "Some people have gotten very angry. They think we're against the First Amendment. But I think we're educating people."

UNO grad en route, walking 650 miles to North Pole

By CINDY GONZALEZ

When most people talk about being on top of the world, it's just a figure of speech. When former UNO student Mike McGuire talks about it, he means it literally.

In a few days, the 26-year-old draftsman will attempt to become the first person ever to walk to the top of the planet, the very vertex, the zenith: the North Pole. Others before him have tried and failed. But, McGuire said, he is 90 percent positive he and his specially-selected crew will succeed. Several other groups and individuals have traveled to the North Pole before, by airplane, snowmobile, skis and other man-made vehicles, but not on foot.

By the time this story is published, McGuire, a Ralston, Neb. native now living in La Vista, will have already left the Omaha area for his drop-off point on War Hunt Island. It is the northernmost land mass in this hemisphere. Beyond War Hunt Island lies only massive, 12-foot thick sheets of ice and snow covering 14,000 feet of ocean water.

Headquarters

Two of the six-member crew will be dropped off at an earlier point in Resolute Bay, Northwest Territories, where they will man the base camp. McGuire and three other men will exit the plane a few hundred miles further away on War Hunt Island, where they will begin the estimated 70-day, 650-mile hike to the top of the world.

The base-camp headquarters is an integral part of the excursion, said McGuire. From there the land crew members will decipher signals sent off approximately every hour and a half from a nine-pound satellite. McGuire will carry throughout the duration of the course. The crew will then plot each day's course.

"Without the satellite, we wouldn't know where we were from day to day. Since there is only water beneath us, ice packs constantly drift and break off. When we wake up in the morning, we could be six miles from where we were the night before," McGuire said at a rate

of nine hours per day, the crew expects to be at the North Pole in 70 days, sometime in May.

Despite his age, McGuire is no stranger to adventure. You may recognize his name: he is the "human fly" who once scaled the 22-story First National Bank building downtown. He performed the stunt to draw attention to his forthcoming expedition.

Among other things, the marathoner/skier has also climbed a 14,000-foot volcano, fought wind chills of 75 degrees below zero, endured 100-mile per-hour wind gusts and camped out on Mt. McKinley.

McGuire is tall and slim with wire-rimmed glasses and brown hair, defying the stereotypical image of the polar explorer. Where one might expect a wind-burned face framed with a snow-white beard and thick fur parka, there is instead a more calculating, businesslike entrepreneur. Nonetheless, there is no lack of adventure or ambition in his eyes.

Stuck on McKinley

McGuire said he came up with the idea of walking to the North Pole while stranded at 17,200 feet for three days on Mt. McKinley. "I figured if we can survive this (windchills of 80 below, cramped quarters, boredom) why not walk to the North Pole?" The initial goal was not to do something that had never been done before, said McGuire.

"It's not that important to us that we are the first to do something," he said. "I just realized that you didn't have to be a Jacques Cousteau or somebody of high status to do something like this. An average American can organize himself, do some scientific studies and add to the knowledge of mankind — you don't have to be someone special. I'm obviously not one special, just a person from Omaha, Nebraska who wants to go to the North Pole."

High-adventure spirit

"My high-adventure spirit really took off after a car accident I had in 1979," he said. The former Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity brother said he was on his way to UNO in his

Jeep to take finals when his wheel hit a patch of ice on an overpass. The Jeep then rammed the side of the bridge, rolled three times and landed on its top. McGuire was thrown from the vehicle.

"They had given me my last rites because I was so bad. But when I woke up with that tube down my throat and a fractured skull and collarbone, I decided I was going to try to do all the things I wanted to do in my life. I wasn't going to wait 10 or 15 years, because things can get in your way."

Nine months later McGuire was back on his feet, running the 26-mile Omaha marathon and entertaining thoughts of skydiving and mountain-climbing.

What makes McGuire so sure he will walk the distance to the North Pole when all his predecessors have failed? "We've done our homework," he answered. McGuire said he and his team have invested three years of research and development for the expedition. Much of the plan was mapped out during several test runs to the arctic. "We've been as close as 170 miles from our destination. Two of the team members and myself built an igloo, camped out for two weeks on an ice pack and tested our navigation and traveling equipment. So we know pretty much what we're up against."

Although thousands of hours and preparation have gone into the excursion there are many surprises and physical obstacles they have yet to overcome. For example, moving ice plates constantly collide and shoot up pressure ridges as high as 50 feet in the air. This natural phenomenon has stopped many explorers before McGuire from reaching the North Pole.

Not to mention the mental barriers. "That's what it's all about," said McGuire. "There are a lot of people out there who can walk to the North Pole. But you have to be the type of person who wants to wake up when it's 50 below outside, get out of that warm sleeping bag, pack up camp and start hiking nine to 12 miles every day, day after day. You have to have

that desire, and all our team members have it." He continued, "You have got to plot out the entire trip in your mind, think about it, dream about it."

Dreams and nightmares

He said he dreams by day and has nightmares in his sleep. He dreams of polar bears, arctic wolves and also envisions a victory party at the end. "You have to be positive," he added. The crew will carry a rifle to ward off any arctic animals, said McGuire. Each man will also carry an 85-pound backpack, wear specially-insulated overcoats and moosehide boots designed to withstand temperatures of 65 below. Seven-foot sleds will lug other necessities along, he said.

The team will be equipped with a three-week supply of dehydrated food. An airplane will drop off other food supplies when needed. McGuire and his team will each consume 5,000 to 6,000 calories per day to expiate for the "tremendous amount of energy they'll burn up." McGuire doesn't seem to be the only one who believes he's going to make the trip. Helping cover the \$85,000 budget and other expenses are corporations and private donors. He received a large donation from Damart Thermawear. In return, he will be the long john/underwear cover boy in its winter catalog.

National Geographic has also offered \$15,000 for the story rights, providing they complete the mission. Individual sponsors who bought \$10 T-shirts will also get their name deposited in a capsule which McGuire plans to place at the geographic North Pole.

McGuire said he is also working with two universities, making the expedition a scientific and educational trip as well as one of adventure. They will be collecting surface samples of snow all along the way to determine the acid rain content in the ice.

McGuire Polar Expedition Inc. will be sending reports to local AM radio station KFAB, which will broadcast those reports and talk with the crew about how the journey is progressing.

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News Briefs

Warm weather work

UNO Student Part Time Employment Service is in the process of contacting employers wishing to be represented at the 1985 Summer Jobs Fair.

The fair is organized to let students and potential employers meet and hold interviews for part-time and full-time summer jobs.

Rick Carlson, director of Student Part Time Employment, said that roughly 1500 employers in and around Omaha are being contacted concerning representation at the fair. He said he expects 40 to 50 employers to confirm attendance.

Carlson is new to the UNO campus. He's been director of the Student Part Time Employment office for only five weeks, coming from a job at Creighton's Housing Office.

He said according to a 1983 survey, 70-80 percent of UNO students worked either full- or part-time. He said new jobs were constantly being posted, adding that 147 new job descriptions had been added to the boards in the Student Center and the Eppley Conference Center since the beginning of the Spring '85 semester. One hundred fifty six students had also been placed since the semester began.

Student concerns

Student President/Regent Mike Debolt urges students to attend the assembly of NU Regents and University of Nebraska Administrators on March 15 at 2:30 p.m. in the Regent's Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln. The assembly is being held to hear the concerns of students from UNO, UNMC, and UNL. An open forum will be held to enable the students from each campus to voice their needs and concerns.

Private scholarships

Deadlines are fast approaching for summer and fall financial aid, according to the Scholarship Bank. Students with financial needs should begin now to investigate some of the more than

25,000 private aid sources, according to Steve Danz, director. These funds are available to students with interests in a number of fields, and many do not depend on demonstrated financial need, as do state and federal funds.

The Scholarship Bank is the largest private scholarship organization in the country for undergraduate and graduate grants and loans. The computer can help you find sources designed for you, based on your major, occupational goal, geographic desires, type of aid requested and special skills. According to Danz, the computer guarantees each student at least 50 sources of aid. Students wishing to use the search should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Scholarship Bank, 10100 Santa Monica #2600, Los Angeles, Calif. 90067.

Getaway Gang

"The Getaway Gang," a film to assist parents in teaching personal safety tactics to their children, will be shown at noon on Wednesday, March 6 at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam St. The program will focus on how to prepare children to protect themselves from inappropriate touching by adults.

UNO's College of Continuing Studies opens its spring Brown Bag series with this film and discussion led by Rolee Kelly of the YWCA. These programs are free, and those who attend are invited to bring their lunches.

Concert Choir

The UNO Concert Choir and University Chorus will present a concert of original works written specifically for the groups on Sunday, March 10 at 8 p.m. in UNO's Strauss Performing Arts Center Recital Hall. The concert is free and open to the public.

Financial aid qualifications

New academic qualifications for financial aid proposed last

semester have been approved, according to B. J. Hawkins, interim director of UNO Financial Aid.

The new guidelines require a student to complete two-thirds of attempted hours per semester, as opposed to the old guidelines requiring completion of all attempted hours.

The new rules go into effect June 1, 1985, and will cover new and currently enrolled students as of that date.

Hawkins said copies of the new guidelines are available at the Financial Aid Office in the Eppley Conference Center.

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Comment

Our door is open

Sunday, 24 February, 10:30 p.m.

Typewriters are humming on this, our 13th Gateway deadline of this semester.

My News Editor, Dan Prescher, just left my office in a quandary as to my position on a debate which propriety precludes me from relating.

Associate/Feature Editor Lynn Sanchez was fortunate tonight. She finished her duties early so as to keep a pressing social engagement.

Sports Editor Mike Jones is, as usual, diligently constructing his stories on the latest in Mav and Lady Mav happenings.

And by the look in Copy Editor Karen ("Neurotica") Nelson's eyes, I can tell she knows this will be another late but interesting night at the ranch. Since I haven't heard her let out any wails of despair inspired by unsatisfactory stories, I can only hope things are progressing well.

Photo Editor Scot Shugart presented some pleasing contributions for our front page and asked my sage (?) advice.

On grueling deadlines such as ours, I sometimes stop and wonder if the lost sleep and missed meals are really worth it. I keep telling myself we all must have a streak of masochism in us to be able to bear up here.

But I know our work is not in vain whenever I see someone interestedly perusing our latest issue or discussing a topic we raised.

It wasn't until late last spring that I finally made it over to investigate The Gateway. The rest, as they say, is now history. If you have yet to pay us a visit, especially if you're a journalism major, do it. Get acquainted with your newspaper. Who knows, we may even have a story for you to do...

—JOHN MALNACK II



Neurotica By Karen Nelson

Times are tough

No one expected to find Texas billionaire J. Wilson Diggins at the bus station waiting for the 10:15 to Houston. It was even more of a surprise to find him standing by the bill-changing machine helplessly.

"Ma'am, you don't happen to have change for a \$100 bill, do you? I need to get a sandwich from the vending machine to eat on my trip."

I couldn't believe my eyes, but it was indeed Diggins. The trademark 20-gallon hat was still in place, but it was shabbier now. His cowboy shirt, usually custom tailored, was obviously purchased off the rack. And his boots, once made of the finest leather, were — dare I mention it? — featured as the K-Mart blue-light special last week.

"No, I sure don't have change for a \$100 bill," I said. "Besides, why would someone like you have to travel by bus? Your private plane, 'Old Betsy,' is famous all over the world."

Diggins sadly shook his head. "I had to sell 'Old Betsy,' ma'am. Yes'm, my plane is gone, my fabulous mansion is gone, my vast oil fields have been sold one by one. It's tough being a billionaire these days."

Although I have read the story in last Saturday's World-Herald relating in heart-rending detail just how hard it is for Texas billionaires to keep their heads above water, it seemed impossible to believe. Yet, there Diggins was, not even traveling first class any more, not even traveling by express bus. "How did it

happen?" I asked.

"Bad investments," said Diggins. "Bad investments were what ruined me. Why, last year for the first time, I knew exactly how much I was worth. In 1984, I was worth only \$35.8 billion. What a comedown!"

He opened his \$39.95 briefcase from Sears and took out his annual report. "Look at this," he said. "Lost \$25 billion on the frozen-yogurt business. Our researchers were trying for years to come up with a zucchini-flavored yogurt. After five years, the research department gave me a 10-page report. I waded through all that high-flown scientific stuff, and you know what? The scientists in research discovered that zucchini doesn't have a flavor."

"That's terrible," I said. "But \$25 billion must be nothing to you."

Diggins shrugged. "Well, maybe. But after losing \$45 billion in the squid-pizza franchise, \$13 billion trying to build a better mousetrap, \$6 billion in the instant-gasoline business — that was a good one for someone in the oil business, until consumers in our test markets started complaining that lumps were forming in the gas tank — pretty soon it started turning into real money."

He put away the annual report. "So that's why I'm here waiting for a bus instead of using my private plane or even going to the airport and riding tourist class. It's not easy, trading in

the Rolls for a used Mercedes, selling the mansion and moving into a penthouse condo, buying generic caviar and drinking California champagne instead of French champagne at \$100 a bottle. But I'm learning to get by."

That sounded inspiring. Diggins had learned how to get by on almost nothing, and in a remarkably short period of time, too. "What other advice do you have for the rest of us who are trying to scrape by?" I asked.

Diggins thought for a moment. "Well, there's the matter of household help. Indentured servants are the way to go. Instead of asking people to pay back those petty little \$5 million loans, just have them work for you for two or three years. Bank presidents really do a hell of a job polishing silver."

"And as for those intimate little dinner parties for 4,000, sometimes convenience foods really do help. When you're pressed for time and money, you can never have too much caviar helper and instant truffles in the mansion. Also, if you don't have a chauffeur, wear the uniform yourself. Usually, the chauffeur wears better suits than you do anyway."

Diggins looked at his watch and picked up his suitcases. "It's time for me to go. I sure hope I don't have to sit next to some crying baby again." Before he opened the door to board the bus, he looked back. "I hope next year is better. It would be quite a letdown to become a mere millionaire again."



The Gateway

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Op Ed -

University students discuss 'the politics of tuition'

By COLMAN MCCARTHY

Washington — They had taken a direct hit the day before. To find out how it felt, I asked the 90 college students in my course on peace studies at American University to write their reactions to the Reagan administration's proposals to reduce student aid. William Bennett, the new secretary of education, had supported cutting off loans and grants for more than one million students. The limit would be \$4,000 a student yearly and \$32,500 family income. For the victims, Bennett socked them with sarcasm: It is time for "divestiture" of stereos, cars and beach vacations.

I have a diverse class — undergraduates from 18 to 22, a retired coal miner, a native Alaskan, a neighborhood mother, foreign students (Kuwait, India, Bahrain, Nepal), the president of the campus chapter of Young Americans for Freedom and a left-of-left 20-year-old woman who has twice been to Nicaragua on school breaks to serve the poor.

The diversity is refreshing to me, but the differences among the students constrict like bolts tightening into place when the subject is William Bennett's thinking. Except for five or six students who supported the secretary, everyone else found the Reagan administration's crabbed ideas about college students and their finances either grossly biased or absurdly unworkable.

The picture that emerges from these 90 papers counters the one offered by Bennett of many students — of private-school rich-kids scamming the government for grants and loans. American University is private, but well over half the kids in my class — a representative group — are working. Many have two jobs. One student has three. A fair number work full time, and then

scratch around for night courses that fit into their degree program.

One senior told of the doubling of costs since her first semester in college. The rise is due to regular increases in tuition and the decreases in Social Security survivor benefits. She writes: "I am making it because I have worked part-time all through school and full-time in the summers (while) taking night classes. My family cannot afford to help me substantially since I also have a brother in college and a sister beginning next year. I have benefitted from university scholarships because of my grades but I still have to take out a guaranteed student loan from the bank and other loans from the government to cover tuition and expenses."

That student has loans out for more than \$15,000. A classmate, in her late 20s, was once in a similar fix. She was forced to leave school to earn enough money to come back. Another student is working 30 hours a week, which is a rest from her summer schedule of 70 hours in "two jobs day and night to save for the next school year." She argues that under Bennett's plans "the poor and the rich will get an education and the middle class will get the shaft as usual. How are parents supposed to squeeze their wallets any tighter when they have others in school, several loans out and barely making ends meet?" This student has a three-year-old \$100 stereo, no car and "can't afford a trip anywhere — even home to New York."

From the papers, I sensed that only about one in five students were at the university under ideal conditions: no financial aid; no jobs and parents paying in full. Several students said they

knew of campus leeches who didn't seem to need aid but wrangled some anyway. Another told of a friend who ran up debts but has found a dodge to avoid paying them.

These offenses against fairness came up in a number of papers, but they were few compared with what most others saw as the unfairness of the Reagan administration. American education is in vibrant condition when a student can write, as one of mine did, that "Bennett's words come straight from his heart, which is hollow. How can you possibly want to cut student aid? That money goes to a good cause. . . . There are many families that earn more than \$32,500 that have many children close in age. They can't possibly afford to send, let's say, four kids at one time to school. It's also a cop-out saying the kids spend the aid on cars and stereos. It's just an excuse, and a lousy one at that."

In addition to these in-class essays, I asked the students to pick one word to describe their feelings about Bennett's thinking. The YAF president, a quick-witted and likable lad, said "justifiable." That was the minority view. These were typical of the majority: confused, irrational, horrifying, idiotic, spaced-out, addle-minded, unbelievable, barbaric.

A peace-studies class is a fit scene for students to discuss the politics of tuition. Economic war has been declared on the 90 kids in my class, and millions more across the country. They are fighting back with sure-fire weapons: sound ideas and stories of personal sacrifices. It is hard to imagine that Congress will abandon the students.

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Westmoreland: Trying to win in a 'no-win' job

One week before the conclusion of his 18-week-old \$120 million libel suit against CBS, retired Gen. William C. Westmoreland called it quits. While watching him on ABC's "Nightline" last week, I was surprised to find myself feeling almost empathetic for Westmoreland.

Granted the case was made that the matter of Westmoreland's portrayal of enemy troop strength in Vietnam did not belong in the courts.

The suit resulted from the CBS documentary "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception," which alleged that Westmoreland suppressed information in 1967 that indicated Vietnamese communist forces were at least 200,000 more than had been reported. The documentary alleged that the general underreported the numbers to avoid damaging political support for the war effort.

Two of Westmoreland's former aides in Vietnam, retired Maj. Gen. Joseph McChristian and retired Col. Gains Hawkins, testified in support of the CBS allegations.

Westmoreland maintained that no information was suppressed and contended that the more than 200,000 civilians (known as "self-defense" forces) referred to in the documentary were children, women and old men who were not a military threat. According to the documentary, these civilians were responsible for thousands of U.S. casualties.

If these Vietnamese were indeed a real threat militarily, and if Westmoreland or someone else did not report them so as to avoid further erosion of support for the war, such action was unwise but somewhat understand-

able.

We probably had no business being in Vietnam in the first place. The United States seemed never to have clearly defined an ultimate goal in Vietnam other than some nebulous demonstration of "resolve" against a communist success that would result in Dulles' "domino theory."

Whether or not we should ever have been in Vietnam notwithstanding, once we were there we should have sustained a 100 percent commitment to winning that war.

Beginning in 1965, North Vietnam endured three years of systematic bombing while U.S. troops waged war in the South. But the resilient Viet Cong launched the Tet Offensive in 1968, and to many a military victory began to look unattainable.

Following the Tet Offensive, dissatisfaction with the war began to mount significantly in Washington and among the American public. Consequently, then President Johnson refused Westmoreland's request for more than 200,000 additional U.S. troops. The bombing of North Vietnam was also soon halted.

Although the United States stepped up the war during the Nixon administration, after mining Haiphong harbor and bombing selected areas of Indochina, U.S. outcry against the war had reached such a level that the administration knew a continued commitment to winning the war was politically impossible. Indeed, some of the most intense U.S. bombing was occurring simultaneously with the Paris peace talks.

This vacillation in U.S. policy in Vietnam was largely due to the vocal anti-war sentiment at

home, which effectively neutered the war effort. But public dissatisfaction would not culminate in a U.S. withdrawal until 1973; until then it ensured that U.S. forces were condemned to wage an irrefutable, protracted police action that America no longer wanted to win.

The United States was being torn between the military wisdom of doing whatever it took to win a winnable war, versus the domestic objections to that war. The knowledge that an additional 200,000 Vietnamese self-defense forces were pitted against U.S. troops would likely have further eroded public support for the war. The controversy over enemy strength will now never be fully resolved.

No sane person likes war, but if a nation is going to fight a war it should fight a war. We

did not successfully aid our allies in the first two world wars with a wavering commitment.

Suppose for the sake of argument that Westmoreland did indeed fail to count 200,000 Vietnamese civilians because he believed doing so would further weaken U.S. resolve in a war he thought could be won. So be it. It was his job to win the war. He should have been permitted to do it.

Westmoreland never proved his libel claim against CBS, but he was the victim of a greater injustice. He had the misfortune of being in charge of U.S. involvement in a war that the nation lacked the public and political resolve to win. Westmoreland's case again proves that there were no winners in the only war we ever lost.

—JOHN MALNACK II

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Letters

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to a letter from Paul Ady (Gateway, Feb. 15) criticizing Brad Kaciewicz. I cannot accept attacks on my friends lightly. Brad is a good friend of mine and that is why I feel that I must respond and prove why Mr. Ady's perception of him is wrong.

Brad was a very effective student senator for over two terms. He was re-elected twice, meaning that his constituents felt that he was a good senator, not a radical one.

Brad is not an extremist. His Gateway article on Jan. 25 did not imply that non-Americans were SOL. It only questioned why we are throwing millions of dollars at a seemingly per-

petual famine when we have people starving and having trouble surviving in our own cities. I suggest that Mr. Ady find and explain to a transient why Ethiopians need food and shelter more than he does.

I would like to add my own opinion. This food problem either internally or externally is not the full responsibility of the federal government. The Constitution says that the government should "promote the general welfare." It doesn't say that it should provide it. This problem should be solved by private citizens working through their churches or other non-government entities as their conscience dictates, and not through the federal government.

Wade D. Goehring

Thomas Wolfe takes Playhouse audience 'home again'

The Omaha Community Playhouse's current production of Ketti Frings' Pulitzer Prize winning "Look Homeward, Angel" paints a graphic portrait of "a house divided." Adapted from Thomas Wolfe's (1900-1938) autobiographical novel of the same name, the drama concentrates on the unhealthy dynamics of the Gant family in the early 1900s.

Director Charles Jones said, "This play revolves around the American family, much in the same way that 'All in the Family' did. . . It is a play that runs the entire range of emotions, presenting comedy, pathos, anger, sexuality, love and frustration." He succeeds in weaving these elements together in a cohesive, though occasionally talky, production.

The family's father, W. O. Gant, is an alcoholic stonecutter whose only escape from the unfulfillment of his life is in his drink and his work. He owns his own cemetery-monument shop where he hoards his precious "Angel" — an Italian marble masterpiece which has both inspired and frustrated him over the years by his attempts to duplicate it.

Eliza Gant is W.O.'s second wife. She is a pushy, often-hysterical woman who has alienated her family by her well-meaning but overbearing attempts to make their lives better. Her escapes are fantasies of selling and trading her properties until she has made enough money to live easily. In reality, she must work non-stop as the proprietress of the family's boarding house, the "Dixieland." Ironically, it was she who forced the family to move there in hopes of making more money. As played by Dick Boyd and Susan Baer, we see multi-dimensional characters trying — not always successfully — to deal with life and its inevitable pain.

Two of the six Gant children figure prominently in the action. There is the brooding Ben Gant, played with intensity by Bruce Kobza. He is a sickly, nervous man who was never able to break free of his mother's clutches. His only happiness in life is from an affectionate relationship with Dixieland resident Mrs. Marie



"Rip roarin' drunk" — W. O. Gant (Dick Boyd, center) comes home in a drunken uproar much to the consternation of his daughter Helen (Tambra Carlson, center), her husband Hugh (Michael Preister, left), and Eugene Gant (James Keene, top center) in *Look Homeward, Angel*.

"Fatty" Pert. "Fatty" is warm and lovable as played by Kathleen Hekl.

Finally, there is 17-year-old Eugene, Thomas Wolfe's fictional counterpart. He is played with aching sincerity by Central High senior James Keene. Lanky and awkward but with a lively mind, Eugene dreams of escaping his role as family mediator and getting a college education which will save him from the same fate as his older brother. In turn, Ben encourages him to

escape no matter what it takes, imploring him to "Please yourself."

The often-vexing crew of boarders at Dixieland provided glowing moments of levity throughout the potentially heavy two-and-one-half hour production. This irresistible collection of misfits includes Stephen Hills, Rose Johnson, Gail Erwin, Jean Moran, Bill Dostal, and the lovely-voiced Laura Beth Leacox. Each was marvelous in these bit parts. Another bright

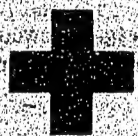
spot in the play was Mary Peckham as the flamboyant Madame Elizabeth, who wishes to buy W.O.'s beloved Angel to mark the grave of a young prostitute named "Lily." She definitely stole the scene, to the audience's delight.

Consistently well-acted was the part of Laura James by Kim McDaniel-Robuck. She is a young woman who breezes into Dixieland like a breath of spring air, effortlessly stealing Eugene's heart only to break it. (I must mention here my admiration for both McDaniel-Robuck and young Keene, who maintained their poise and characters even when the bed they were sitting on during the final act collapsed unexpectedly.)

Except for the breaking bed, the scenery and props were wonderful, evoking a mood of nostalgia along with an intentionally boxed-in feeling. The rotating Dixieland, the main center of action, is spectacularly inventive in design. James Othuse is to be commended for that, as well as his highly effective use of lighting. Costumes by Denise Ervin were always appropriate and added to characterizations.

As mentioned before, the main problem I had with this production was the excessive talkiness, probably unavoidable when dealing with Wolfe. Though the characters were well-drawn, it seemed as if they were often racing through their lines to "get it all in." Listening to that type of machine-gun delivery for two and a half hours can be tiring. In long monologues there was a tendency for the lines to fall into a distracting sing-song pattern, sometimes accompanied by a loss of the character's Southern accent. Overall, however, the production was up to the Playhouse's usual standards.

The drama will be presented on the theater's main stage until March 17. The Playhouse is inviting students to view this production at a reduced admission price. Student tickets, normally \$4 for non-musicals, are being offered to students with ID's on a two-for-one basis at the same price. They may be reserved by calling 553-0800 or stopping by the box office at least 24 hours before a performance.



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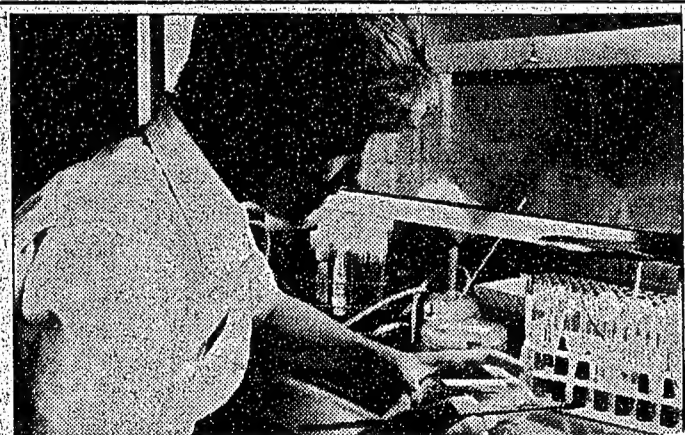
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Sports

NDSU wrestlers topple UNO title hopes

By TIM JENSEN

The UNO wrestling team finished in what Coach Mike Denney called a "disappointing" second place at the North Central Conference tournament last Wednesday in Brookings, S.D.

Mark Weston at 118 pounds and Mark Manning at 150 pounds won their second NCC championships. Paul Jones at 177 won his first NCC crown.

"We really could have won," said Denney. "That's why it was so disappointing."

North Dakota State won the tournament, edging the Mavericks 89-79 despite the three individual titles.

"We didn't wrestle poorly," said Denney. His team is sending nine wrestlers to the NCAA Division II national tournament. The tournament will be held March 2 and 3 at Wright State in Dayton, Ohio. "We were down. Now we have

to get pumped back up."

All of the UNO wrestlers placed. Curt Ramsey, 158 pounds, and R.J. Nebe, 190, finished second. Shawn Knudsen, 142, finished third. Bill Colgate, 126, Mike Fox, 134, and Doug Hassel, 167, finished fourth. Heavyweight Tom Ewin's fifth-place finish didn't qualify him for the national tournament.

Denney said the team's goal is to have eight All-Americans at nationals. The top eight wrestlers in each weight class are named All-Americans. "That would be a new tournament record," said Denney. His 1983 team currently holds the record with six.

Weston said his goal at nationals is to win his way to the finals and wrestle Tim Wright, the returning national champion from Southern Illinois, Edwardsville. Weston said he plans to spend time wrestling UNL's Matt Campbell to

work on his quickness.

Manning, who holds UNO's record for the most wins with 115, plans to extend his record to 119 by winning the national championship. "You can't worry about the people in your weight class," Manning said. "What you do best, you have to put it on the mat."

Denney said his team should take things one step at a time, but UNO could be near the top at nationals. "When you've got nine guys in there, you've got nine bullets," Denney said. "We match up against the top guys."

After losing 13 pounds in two days for the NCC tournament, Weston said he has gained it all back. He said he set a personal record by losing eight pounds in one day. He said losing weight fires him up.

Denney said this year's squad is one of the better teams UNO has had. "There are six

other teams in the NCC that would like to be in our shoes," Denney said. "We're in it to be in the thick of things, and we have been for the last four years." UNO has finished second in the NCC tournament the last four years.

Manning said the team relies on each individual to wrestle to his full potential, and that didn't happen at the NCC tournament. Denney said a key reason for the letdown was Doug Hassel's injury. Hassel injured his ankle earlier this season in the North Dakota dual. "Doug's problem affected the team," Denney said. "We counted on him to win it."

The wrestlers and coaches said they think things will be different at nationals. Manning said the Mavericks will outscore North Dakota State. "They're gonna get eaten up at nationals," Manning said.

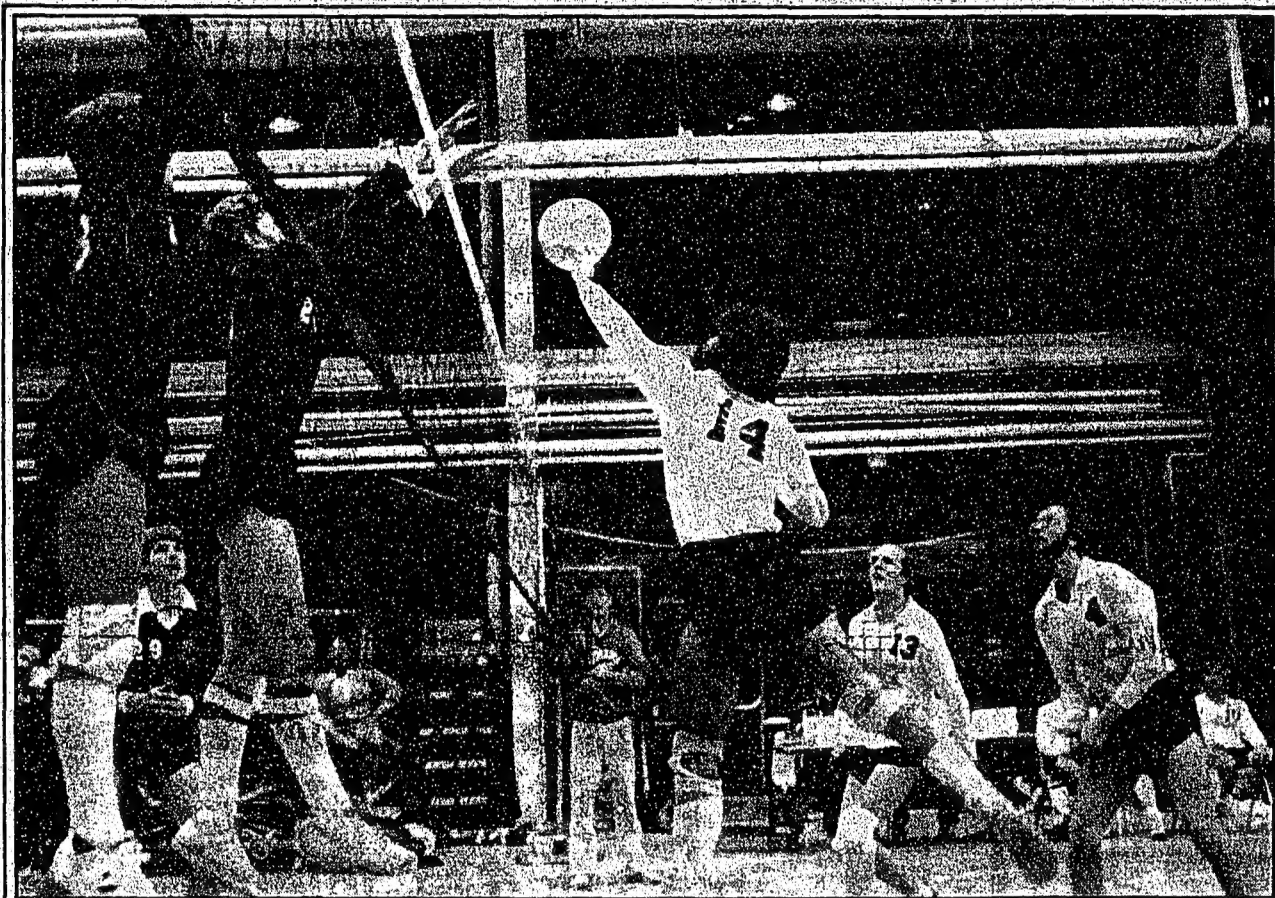
Intramural action fills March slate

The HPER building is humming with competition as the spring intramural schedule moves into its third week.

In the basketball leagues, the teams are going into the heart of their schedules as the undefeated teams start to pair off. In Monday night "B" action, the unbeaten Toolsheds were scheduled to tangle with Bob's Boomers in the early game. The 3-0 Hackers received a bye in the late league to stay on top.

Tuesday night action saw the Hoyas and Fighting Izods try to maintain their 2-0 slate in 6:30 "B" games. The 7:30 time slot does not boast unblemished records, but the Whammies and The Mokesies will be aiming for the 3-1 playoff-qualifying mark. In Tuesday "A" action, the Mooseheads are a strong favorite to remain at the top.

Tonight's games will feature the undefeated Pikes and Sigma Phi Epsilon teams gearing up for a showdown next week in the fraternity league. At 7:30 tonight AFROT and RPM will match their unblemished records in a "B" league showdown. At 5:30, the Artheads are expected to continue their rampage through the early "B" league. Tonight's "A" league game will feature Joe Kaminski's Banditos risking their 2-0 mark.



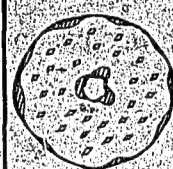
Swat Time

Scot Shugart

UNO volleyball club member Bob Bart (14) tries to smash a spike past the opponents as teammates Jeff Henninger (13) and Jeff French (4) prepare for a possible block. The UNO men's club finished third in the United States Volleyball Association tournament held Saturday in the fieldhouse.

The UNO women's team won the women's division, finishing with a 13-2 mark. The UNO team beat Northwest Missouri 15-11, 16-14 in the final.

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UNO upsets NDSU in Fargo, loses to North Dakota

By MIKE JONES

The UNO men's basketball team tangled with the top of the North Central Conference heap and garnished a split of North Dakota road games.

The Mavericks have only won once before on a swing through the northern end of the conference trail. That win came last season when the Mavs were sitting on top of the NCC race. The Mavs came into the weekend games sporting a two-game win streak, having picked up home victories against South Dakota and Morningside the previous week.

UNO had won only one conference road game the entire season, winning over Mankato State Feb. 8. North Dakota State came into the game sporting a 9-5 NCC record, only two games behind conference leader South Dakota State. SDSU was on the road Friday night at Morningside, needing only one game to lock up the conference championship. For NDSU it was desperate straits. The Bison needed the home win to solidify a regional play-off bid. Bison fans were hoping for an SDSU upset loss in Sioux City.

The game got under way with UNO freshman Mark Miller lighting up the score clock early, helping the Mavericks to a 14-4 lead five minutes into the first half. Meanwhile, a tenacious Maverick defense was forcing the Bison to launch 20- to 25-foot jump shots.

NDSU Coach Irv Inniger tried to shuffle players in and out of the game through the first half as he searched for the right combination to stop the Mavericks. The Bison began to succeed, cutting the UNO lead to eight, 26-18, with seven minutes remaining in the half.

However, a pair of Terry Sodawasser baskets and a steal sparked the Mavs to a 34-22 lead. UNO maintained its control the remainder of the half, going into the locker room with a 38-24 lead.

Second half

NDSU opened the second half with a quick rally, cutting the UNO lead to nine, but the Bison fouled and UNO lifted its lead back to 11, 42-31, with 15 minutes remaining. UNO maintained its control through much of the second half with key steals and baskets. The Bison were clawing their way back with long range jumpers and feisty steals.

The daring steals led to several Bison fouls, and UNO was able to pad its lead by converting the free throws. With the score 54-43, a scoring match got under way as UNO cracked several jump shots and the Bison responded with their own long series of spectacular jump shots. At one point NDSU nailed eight successive 20-foot baskets.

UNO's 61-51 lead shrank with 7:30 remaining in the game when Dan Rust missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw.

The Bison got the ball downcourt to Steve Stacy who popped another long jump shot. UNO brought the ball back into play and promptly lost it on an NDSU steal which was converted for another long-range jump shot, cutting the UNO lead to six, 61-55.

Just as UNO started to pull away from the Bison on fouls, the SDSU/Morningside score was announced. The Jackrabbits had lost by two points to Morningside. The Bison home crowd started to clamor for renewed effort, but lost some enthusiasm when team leader Albert Hairston fouled out. UNO's Rust nailed two free throws and Miller got 23 points shortly thereafter.

With UNO up 72-59, the Bison fans started to leave the arena, missing the final grimy stretch drive of NDSU. With 1:38 remaining, NDSU was trailing, but in the time left UNO missed four scoring opportunities. The game eroded into a walkabout as NDSU fouled Mav players, who missed free throws and threatened to throw the game away. The Bison cut a 76-62 lead down to 79-76, outscoring UNO 14-3. With 20 seconds left Miller got two free throws for UNO, but NDSU responded with still another jump shot.

The Bison fouled Rust again. He missed the free throws and NDSU brought the ball back to their court. A short jump shot failed, followed by three more efforts that failed, and UNO pulled out the win.

Freshman Miller finished the game with 24 points, as UNO finished with 59.1-percent shooting. Dwayne King and Mike Born followed with 13 and 12 points, respectively. Born also led the team in rebounds with six.

North Dakota 79, UNO 75

Mark Miller, hero of the Friday-night upset, froze up early against North Dakota, missing his first four shots. North Dakota took advantage of the Maverick confusion by opening up a 20-2 lead in the first five minutes that UNO was never able to overcome.

According to Coach Bob Hanson, the Sioux scored on their first 11 shots. North Dakota finished with a 65.9 shooting percentage. The Sioux were 17 of 21 in first-half shooting, as the team took a 43-29 lead into the locker room.

The second half opened with North Dakota extending its lead to 19, 58-39, with 15 minutes to play. Mike Born continued to pump in Maverick baskets. The UNO freshman had 13 points in the first half and finished the game with 29.

The Maverick defense really came through when needed, forcing 24 Sioux turnovers. The turnovers and sharp Maverick shooting as time wound down helped UNO cut the Sioux lead to one point, 72-71. The comeback was stymied by fouls in the final minute, and North Dakota hung on for the four-point win.

Hanson said that his team played its best second half of the season in the losing effort.

Lady Mavs drop season finales

The Lady Mavs closed out their 1984-85 basketball season with a pair of road losses.

UNO was aided by departing seniors Julie Hengemueller, Ronda Motykowski and Carm Johnson. Lady Mavs Coach Cheri Mankenberg said the trio played well in the 84-67 loss to North Dakota State and the 72-68 fall to North Dakota.

"I was pleased with the way the seniors played," Mankenberg said. "They finished out their careers with some good games."

According to Mankenberg, the season had been a struggle ever since the Christmas break. Prior to Christmas, the Lady Mavs had been 9-2 with a win over Division I Kansas and a second place finish at the Wendy's/Missouri-Kansas City Tournament. UNO had also won its own Diet Pepsi Classic.

Injuries and illness took their toll on the Lady Mavs. Earlier this season UNO had lost to North Dakota by 17 when they had several players out with the flu. Top-scorer Jackie Scholten was also out for a time with a broken finger on her shooting hand.

Mankenberg said that in the weekend games UNO got very few good calls from the officials. Against North Dakota State UNO was especially hurt by the calls, she added.

"Offensively, they wouldn't give us a call," Mankenberg said. "They went to the line 37 times. Our kids kept their poise real well."

Against North Dakota State UNO led 49-47 before being outscored 18-10 in five minutes. In the final four minutes, NDSU padded its lead with continued trips to the free throw line.

In the season finale North Dakota trailed by seven, 40-33, at the half but was able to rally past the Lady Mavs for the four-point win. The trio of seniors led UNO scoring: Hengemueller had 13, Johnson and Motykowski had 11 each.

UNO finished the season with a 14-14 mark, 5-9 in the North Central Conference. According to Mankenberg, she will now be busy recruiting replacements for the 6-foot-1-inch Hengemueller and Motykowski.

"We'll be looking for a couple post players," Mankenberg said. "We'll also be looking for some more speed and people who are confident shooting from outside."

Mankenberg said in the next week she would be attending the state girls' basketball tournaments in Nebraska, Minnesota, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri.



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